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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/378,208	08/20/1999	LARRY A. NICKUM	98-1170	8847

7590 05/09/2002

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OMAHA, NE 681544409

EXAMINER

LUU, SY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/378,208

Applicant(s)

NICKUM, LARRY A.

Examiner

Sy D Luu

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-59 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matik et al. ("Matik", US # 6,023,701) in view of Brown et al ("Brown", US 6,356,908)

Per claims 1, Matik teaches a method for advanced network viewing, comprising: accessing a first site, querying at least one of a link and a second site linked to said first site (col. 2, lines 27-30). Although Matik teaches the step of generating and communicating a listing of hyperlinks of linked sites for presentation to the user (col. 2, lines 27-40), the communicated listing does not include representations which enable a user to preview the linked sites. Brown teaches a method for presenting content from a web page in a distributed database, wherein the page has a plurality of links to linked pages, and a set of thumbnail images of the linked pages in the database is presented to the user (fig. 8; col. 2, lines 13-19). It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine Brown's teaching with Matik in order to provide users with a preview tool which would enable them to make more informed decisions about which links to follow.

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Per claims 2-3, Matik teaches the querying step to include limiting the scope of the query by including a defined limitation, wherein the limiting step to include at least one of a hierarchy and number of links (fig. 4, col. 6, lines 45-56).

Per claims 4-7, Brown teaches the generating step to include forming a thumbnail representation of the linked second site, wherein the thumbnail representation is formed by taking a snapshot of the linked second site (col. 2, lines 17-20), storing the representation and periodically updating the stored representation by at least one of the linked second site and the first site.(col. 6, lines 17-26).

Per claim 8, the method of Matik and Brown does not disclose the updating step to be performed during idle time. Official Notice is given that the step of updating periodically information such as webpages related to a website during idle time in a networks environment is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to combine this feature with the method of Matik and Brown so as to improve performance on displaying the representations when retrievals are requested, i.e. retrievals of the representations would take less time .

Per claim 9, Matik teaches the communicating step to include displaying the representation in a separate window (fig. 5), as well as Brown (fig. 14).

Per claims 10-11, Brown teaches the communicating step to include displaying the representation as part of display of the first site so that the representation may be viewed as a component part of the first site, wherein the representation is displayed proximally to the link (fig 8; col. 6, lines 33-36).

Per claim 12, Brown teaches the method to, if the linked second site is not accessible, generate a representation indicating that the linked second site is not accessible (col. 7, lines 44-46).

Per claim 13, Matik teaches the generating step to include correlating descriptive information with a representation (col. 5, lines 3-13), as well as Brown (col. 6, lines 33-37).

Claims 14-26 are similar in scope to claims 1-13 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 27-28 combined are similar in scope to claim 1, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 29-40 are similar in scope to claims 2-13 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 41-54 are similar in scope to claims 27-40 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 55-59 are similar in scope to claims 27-28 and 33-35 respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sy Luu whose telephone number is (703) 305-0409. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm (EST). The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

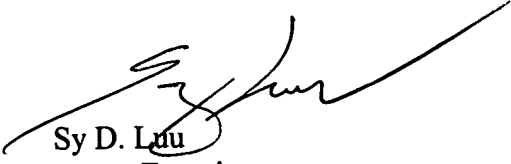
The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 746-7238 [After Final Communication]

(703) 746-7239 [Official Communication]

(703) 746-7240 [For status inquiries, Draft Communication]

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Sy D. Luu
Patent Examiner
5/1/2002